

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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20

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 GAC-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /106 W
----- 120241

P R 191515 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5998

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 1058

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, FI, UR

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST
HIGH OFFICIALS.

REF: HELSINKI 220, 1972; HELSINKI 1780, 1972

BEGIN SUMMARY. HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH PASSING
SECRET KEKKONEN- BREZHNEV MEMCON TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS.
END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER JUSSI LINNAMO, RESEARCH
DIRECTOR IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE SEPPO LINDBLOM AND
THE CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENT' S CHANCERY ANTERO JYRANKI,
ALL SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, HAVE BEEN NAMED BY THE OFFICE
OF THE CHANCELLOR OF JUSTICE AS THE SOURCES OF THE
LEAK TO THE PRESS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM OF
PRESIDENT KEKKONEN' S AUGUST 1972 CONVERSATIONS IN THE
SOVIET UNION WITH BREZHNEV AND THE OTHER SOVIET LEADERS.
THE AFTERNOON PRESS ON APRIL 19 STATES THAT THE CHANCELLOR
OF JUSTICE PLANS TO BRING SUITS AGAINST THE THREE, AFTER
COMPLETING A FOUR MONTH INVESTIGATION IN WHICH 85
PERSONS WERE INTERROGATED. THE LEAK OCCURED ON OCTOBER 15,
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1972 WHEN JOURNALIST TOR HOGNAS PUBLISHED EXCERPTS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION IN STOCKHOLM DAILY DAGENS NYHETER, OSLO DAILY DAGBLADET AND THE FINNISH VASABLADET. (SEE HELSINKI 1780).

2. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS THE CONCLUSION OF THE INVESTIGATION WAS THAT LINNAMO AND LINDBLOM REVEALED THE CONTENTS OF THE DOCUMENT TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS. LINDBLOM AT THE TIME WAS MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY. THE CHANCELLOR OF JUSTICE FINDS THAT THEIR ACTIONS CONSTITUTE A BREAK OF SECURITY REGULATIONS BUT THAT THEY WERE NOT ACTING IN BAD FAITH. THE ACCUSATION AGAINST JYRANKI IS MORE SERIOUS. HE IS CHARGED WITH HAVING PHOTOCOPIED THE ACTUAL DOCUMENTS AND HAVING PASSED THEM TO UNAUTHORIZED OUTSIDERS. THE CHANCELLOR OF JUSTICE DOES NOT INTEND TO BRING CHARGES AGAINST HOGNAS. THE INTENSIVE INTERROGATION OF THE JOURNALIST IN RECENT MONTHS HAS STIMULATED CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM OF THE FINNISH LEGAL AUTHORITIES FROM INTERNATIONAL JOURNALIST CIRCLES.

3. THE CHANCELLOR OF JUSTICE APPARENTLY INTENDS TO BRING LINNAMO TO FACE CHARGES AT THE COURT OF IMPEACHMENT WHILE THE OTHER TWO DEFENDENTS WILL APPEAR BEFORE THE HELSINKI COURT OF APPEALS. PARLIAMENTARY DECISION IS REQUIRED BEFORE A MEMBER OF THE CABINET CAN BE TRIED BY THE COURT OF IMPEACHMENT.

4. COMMENT. THE ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION WAS UNDOUBTEDLY TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE EASTER HOLIDAYS WHEN THE FINNISH PRESS ALSO GOES ON VACATION. NONETHELESS, THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE SOURCES OF THE LEAK, WHICH SO ENRAGED THE PRESIDENT THAT HE LATER STATED HE ALMOST RESIGNED ON THE SPOT, WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE SIGNIFICANT REPERCUSSIONS, NOT LEAST FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT.
WHITE

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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, FI, UR
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EUR
MOSCOW
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